

Affordability Committee: Meeting Notes - April 24, 2007

Present: Chair – Pat Hanberry, Maria Shuck, Sarah Penna, Ken Eidel, Carol Antoniewicz, Guy Djoken
Sent regrets: Pat Rosensteel

Bold indicates folks taking action

State legislature:

Carol gave brief report. Though many bills were proposed, the only “expansion” approved was a bill to mandate insurers provide coverage for domestic partners and any children in the household. Other items were sent for study. There will be a legislative Task Force on Health Care coverage.

We plan to send a letter to Weldon, as head of delegation, thanking them for listening to us when we visited in February. We can compliment House/HGO for work on health bills and indicate we are open to hearing the concerns of those who did not support health expansion bills.

Pat will draft letter for us to review, will mention numbers of uninsured/underinsured;

Affordability – definition clarified:

Review of overall coalition mission “improve availability and accessibility to quality health care.”

For our committee it means *securing portable health coverage*, i.e. can be used at various providers. The majority of our work is legislative - state and Federal. Our #1 goal is to decrease numbers of uninsured. 2nd goal is education of legislators and the public to the needs of the uninsured. 3rd help people enroll.

We voted to adopt this Goal: To ensure that everyone in Fredrick County is covered by comprehensive affordable public or private health insurance.

Possible actions: helping to enroll people in Medicaid, etc. Contact Leigh Joos if you can help at the Children’s festival in Baker Park, Saturday April 28, 10 am – 3 pm. She has free materials for “Cover the Uninsured” Week.

Old business:

1) Needs assessment concerns: Per Dr. Brookmyer, contractor (PRC) must be sure survey represents ethnic groups in proportion to their population in Frederick County. They ARE doing focus groups. We suggested a survey question that will yield info on experience re cultural/linguistic competence. “Are you able to communicate with your health care provider in a language that you understand and are comfortable with? If not, are you provided with a qualified interpreter?”

Other concerns: Deaf access; suggest they do a focus group at Mission of Mercy.

We should be able to view needs assessment minutes on website of Frederick Co Health Dept., look for “coalitions.”

2) Medically underserved area/medically underserved populations (MUA/MUP): Can we document the shortage of providers who accept MA/MCHP to show that we have medically underserved populations? This would allow us to apply for Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

3) Nicole Hoff presented her Hood College honors paper on Access to Dental Care in Frederick County. She will email a copy soon.

4) Pat Hanberry attended the state conference on Minority Health/Health Disparities on April 23.

Reminder: Full coalition meeting Wed. May 23 at FMH, vote for Executive Committee members.

By-laws have been finalized and adopted by Interim Coalition Coordinating Committee.

Next committee meeting May 22:

Agenda: Goals/objectives for our committee
 SCHIP Federal reauthorization
 Phil Killam re MUA/MUP
 Next year: plan ahead for Cover the Uninsured week